

TEST OF SEASON COMES FOR THE PHILLIES ON WESTERN TRIP WHICH STARTS TOMORROW

PHILLIES FACE ACID TEST OF PRESENT SEASON WHEN THEY MAKE LAST WESTERN TOUR

Not Likely That Three Teams on Top of National League Will Be Put in Bad Shape by These Weaker Clubs

ALTHOUGH the Phillies' trip through the West lasts only two weeks, the games played are extremely critical. If it should happen that either the Brooklyn or Boston club hits a slump in the West, it would virtually eliminate them from the pennant race.

But it is not likely that any of the three leaders will break in the West. The Phillies appear to be moving along at a more even clip than any of the others. This is true mainly because the local hurlers are in splendid shape.

The western clubs are likely to fatten their winning percentage on the New York Giants, but they are not likely to do so on the other three clubs of the East, in spite of the fact that a mathematician of the middle West has figured out precisely how and why one of the western clubs must win this season.

Hence, if the Phillies can weather the western drive there is no doubt that they will be able to accomplish a great deal during the following weeks to put them at the top of the heap in the fight for the National League pennant.

McGraw's Hurling Staff Not Dependable

JOHN MCGRAW has a powerful baseball club in many respects, but the poor pitching which has been characteristic of the team's work all season continues, consequently there is little hope even in the minds of the most ardent metropolitan rooters for a pennant this season.

Another thing that is lacking in the club is spirit. The Giants' leader himself does not know how to account for this failure of the team to work hard; nevertheless it is a fact that there are only a few men on the team who live the game as the Phillies do.

Regardless of the score or the inning, one will find that the three New York players mentioned are working, and working hard. No matter if they are far in the lead in the ninth inning or if they are far behind, they play the game for all there is to it until the last out is made.

That is the spirit that makes pennant-winning teams. It was the making of former New York teams, of Chance's great machines in Chicago and of the Athletics. Naturally there are different ways of getting these results, but they must be got in some manner for a team to develop to such a point of efficiency that it will win a pennant.

Athletics Home for Two Weeks' Stay

THE Athletics arrived, after one of the most disastrous trips of their career, for a two weeks' stand at Shibe Park. Whether they will be supported better than they were on the last home stay is a question that time alone will tell; but it is reasonable to suppose the crowds will be larger and have a little bit more enthusiasm than they have had thus far this season.

All fans are interested in the mighty spurt of the St. Louis Browns. Whenever a club gets in the winning habit as St. Louis seems to have done the fans are going to see that club play ball regardless of the opposition, or lack of it in the case of the Athletics.

During the last week the Mackmen have shown marked improvement, although their quality is not of that type which makes pennants or even near-pennants. Bush, Myers and Nabors have been going well, and there is no reason why they should not get better and stay better on the home lot.

Chance for History to Repeat

MR. CORNELIUS MCGILLICUDDY, the nonpareil among the diamond nabobs and manager of the well-known losing streak, once discussed in the presence of the writer the gamest bunch of fans with whom he ever was thrown into contact. The lean leader at that particular time was engaged with his flotilla of high-priced hirelings in mobilizing pennants and ducats galore.

"I will never forget," said the thin Titan, "the game that Jimmy Collins's nine won from us in 1906 in Boston. The Boston team had won the pennant in 1903 and 1904. They had beaten Fred Clarke's team for the world's series in 1903. But that 1906 team had gone to pieces, as all good teams will if you let the moss grow on them. They had lost 29 straight games, and when we came along we beat them the first two or three, I forget which, and then they beat us, winning their first game in 21 starts.

"Now that bunch of Boston fans, and there are no better, just got up on their legs and started to yell as if they had won a world's series. They forgot all about those 29 others below the belt and let themselves out, giving the players a fine hand and shouting like a lot of madmen. That thing was catching, and the first thing that I knew I was yelling a little myself—not for the players, but for the fans who could go crazy over a victory after 29 against them in a row. That exhibition was the gamest for fans that ever I have seen, and showed that Boston has the cream when it comes to real rooters. It had them that day, at any rate."

Little recked the slender, sachem at that time that he would be railroaded by a bunch as misfitting in the great chase for the gonfalon as J. Collins in that era and yellow year. Now that Connie's troupe of trained performing losers has gone through a similar stretch of losses, it looks as if the Athletics fans could tear a leaf from the Boston fan book and give the Mackmen something of a hilarious welcome today.

St. Louis Triumvirate Powerful Combination

THERE are three men on the St. Louis Browns responsible for the great spurt of the Trans-Mississippians toward the top of the league. They are Manager Fielder Jones and Pitchers Eddie Plank and Dave Davenport. Of course, Sisler has done much—so have they all, for that matter—but the trio mentioned form the all-important nucleus of the club's strength.

Of these three, the one least spoken of by the fans—Fielder Jones—has done the most. Last season Branch Rickey had a good individual club, but he did not have the managerial ability that Jones possesses. The present St. Louis leader has virtually every qualification that a baseball manager needs, and he is putting his talents to the test in a most effective way.

Jones has directed the Browns to twenty-three victories out of the last twenty-six starts up to today. Not only that, but the Browns have not gained solely from the weaker clubs. They encountered all of the teams which were deemed pennant contenders, and have been comparatively as strong, against the best as against the weakest.

St. Louis has a long trip ahead in the East, but the Red Sox will unquestionably be the only club to give them a real battle. It is unthinkable that the Athletics, the Yankees (weakened as they are) or Washington can check the Browns in the mad rush for the pinnacle.

Backers of football at Columbia University are determined, now that the game has been restored, to put the Morningside team on the gridiron map. Practice will begin September 11, two weeks earlier than in 1915, the first year of the restoration. It will take some years for Columbia to develop a team that will be able to cope successfully with the big elevens of the East, but those who are running football affairs declare they will have a bunch of booters in a short time.

Captain Nell Mathews, of the 1916 Penn football team, writes that he is getting down to playing form. "I have been working hard," scribbles the captain, "and have lost several pounds and my tonsils. The latter still are giving me a little trouble, in spite of the fact that I don't have them any more." Mathews is taking work at the University of Chicago. He will be in Philadelphia by September 1 to begin work with Bob Fowlwell.

On his return from Duluth, where he was beaten in the national annual regatta for single-scul honors by Tom Rooney, New York, Jack Kelly was greeted heartily by his friends. They still insist that Rooney's victory was in the nature of a scratch, as Kelly has beaten him a number of times. Kelly is a consistent performer, but water conditions were not as favorable as they might have been in Duluth.

TWO MEN GET ACQUAINTED AT A SUMMER RESORT



SECTIONAL TENNIS DOUBLES TEAMS POORLY BALANCED

Present Plan of National Doubles Event Could Be Improved Upon

DAVIS-CHURCH FAVORITES

For years the leading tennis players of the land have been agitating the abolition of the present method of determining the winners of the national doubles titles. Every year, in various districts, sectional doubles events are held, and the winners of these events meet at Chicago in an elimination tournament, to determine the challengers of the titleholders.

Church and Davis form one of the best-balanced doubles teams in a decade. In many respects it is a stronger team than Johnston and Griffin and infinitely better than McLoughlin and Dawson. The latter has not yet reached the form of a McLoughlin, Davis or Church, and McLoughlin will be forced to carry a tremendous load, as he did in the last few years in which he played with Bundy.

Although holding the doubles championship in conjunction with the singles, which is the English custom, would run the national event well into two weeks, this would be far better than the present method. At present it takes three or four days to run off the preliminary doubles at Chicago, and the time to the final singles or ten days already used to decide the singles event, would not increase the time for the two events by more than a day or two.

Too Anxious—Almost A rather peculiar condition existed when Davis and Church met R. Norris Williams, Ed. and Theodore Roosevelt. It was the final of the Eastern doubles at Longwood. Neither Williams nor Pell was very anxious to make the trip to Chicago for the preliminary rounds, while Davis and Church were not only keen to win, but ready and willing to give up the time for the trip.

In fact, Davis and Church were so keen to win that they almost were beaten in straight sets through overanxiety. So here was presented the spectacle of an apparently winning team almost ready to throw up the sponge, and of a team almost on the verge of defeat frantic to win. But fortunately it ended roily in a victory for Davis and Church.

The "veteran" Bill Rowland has certainly come into his own. Until recently, tennis players and fans never thought that modesty was part of Rowland's make-up. But in a roundabout way it was learned a short time ago that Rowland was selected by the "powers that be" in national lawn tennis affairs to hold the service lines in the Williams-Johnston match in the east and west conflict. You've gotahandit to him!

Chicago Cubs Buy Two Atlanta Players NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 16.—Manager Frank Chance's Atlanta club has announced the sale of Pitcher Scott Perry and Outfielder Sam Mauer to the Chicago National League club for delivery at the end of the season.

Point Breeze Motor Drome TOMORROW NIGHT AT 8:30 Sensational Night Paced Race 11:00 SWEEPSTAKES—40 MILES Carmen Paced by Hunter Wiley Paced by Stein Didier Paced by Morin Columbatto Paced by St. Yves In the event of rain the race will be run Friday night. Admission, 25c and 50c.

BASEBALL TODAY SHIBE PARK AMERICAN LEAGUE GROUNDS Athletics vs. St. Louis GAME CALLED AT 3:20 P. M. Tickets on sale at Glubicki and Scaldini's.

BASEBALL MUST BE PLAYED FOR FANS NOT PLAYERS, DECLARES JOHN K. TENER

National League Head Avers That There Are Too Many Alibis in the Game—Sallies Must Be Eliminated

NEW YORK, Aug. 16. THE turning point in the conduct of baseball on the playing field has come. The game is to be played from now on for the benefit of the fans in the grandstand and bleachers, not to satisfy some player desiring to work off his temper on an umpire or an opposing player.

This was the statement of Tener, president of the National League, in an interview today. His declaration follows the action of National League managers, who in their meeting last week in New York agreed to prevent boisterous discussions on the playing field.

Umpires in the National League hereafter are to be treated courteously and the decisions are to be final. Also there will be no more verbal attacks on visiting players by the white-clad players, nor will the home guards have to listen to sallies from the visitors' bench.

"This is the day of alibis," President Tener said. "The baseball player is much like the average mother. When a boy is hard to control the mother blames his companions; when a baseball player looks bad on a play he doesn't like to take all the blame, so he looks around for some one to take it. And the umpire usually is the handiest. Often he says things he shouldn't, and then he is put out of the game and fined."

"We have certain laws which are meant to control the actions of players and managers on the field and heretofore we have been forced to do all the disciplining. Hereafter the club owners are going to take a hand, with a view to stopping all wrangling before it starts."

"To this end every club has agreed to

keep had talk down. No player will be allowed to yell from the bench at opposing players, nor to make the same kind of an attack on the field of play."

The fan pays for the game, Tener declared, and should be given what he pays for. He believes the fan gets weary when he sees and hears a wrangle on the field, and he does not believe the fan pays for a newspaper to read statements regarding a fracas in a baseball game. Boxing exhibitions, Tener is convinced, are provided in suitable places and the National League is not in competition with the gentlemen who are promoting them.

These new rulings do not mean there will be any lack of enthusiasm, according to President Tener. On the contrary, there is expected to be just as much as ever with a little more cleanliness. Coaching will be more encouraged than ever, he said, but players in the National League will have to confine their conversational ability to players wearing uniforms like their own.

Detroit Club Purchases Joe Wood NORFOLK, Va., Aug. 16.—Announcement of the sale of Pitcher Joe Wood, to the Detroit American League club has been made by the officials of the Portsmouth, Virginia, League club. Wood will report at the end of the Virginia season.

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NO WESTERN CLUB CAN EXPECT TO WIN PENNANT THAT CANNOT CHECK RED SOX ON THIS TRIP

Carrigan's Club Will Be Called Upon to Stand One of Season's Toughest Sieges When Invaders Storm Ramparts

By GRANTLAND RICE

IF there were exact percentages figured for every man's achievement, quite a few who believe they stand between .800 and .1000 would be started to observe their mark was about .217.

For example, in these dispatches, if we could make one hit out of every three starts for a modest mark of .333 we would consider our average suitable enough. It would not be up to Mr. Hughes's standard, nor Ty Cobb's, nor Tris Speaker's. But it would leave us beyond Henry Kauff, Jack Barry, Johnny Evers and Stuffy Melnick. Which is something.

One alert scribe has hit upon an admirable idea for settling all umpire troubles. Let the manager and the club owner umpire except the visiting club. As it is, every one is kicking, and the kicking will continue whether the umpiring is good, bad or merely medium.

The Siege Incarnate

Starting today four hostile army corps in turn will be thrown against Red Sox ramparts, where Bill Carrigan's club will be called upon to stand one of the toughest sieges of the game.

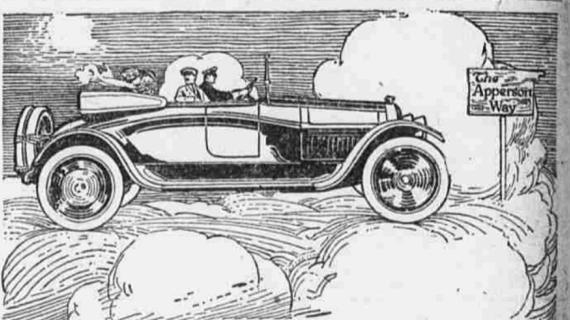
All four Western clubs in the American League figure they are still in the race, and all four figure that Boston is the club to be beaten back.

The resourceful Red Sox went into the enemy's country through the West and hammered out 13 victories from 18 assaults. It took a good, game line-up to accomplish this task, but the job will not be thoroughly completed until the Red Sox can make a winning defense of their own soil.

It is no easy task to face Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit and Cleveland in order, for there can be no let-up, whereas the four besiegers have soft spots in which to recuperate and obtain impetus for the dash. Neither in its soft job for four clubs to hurl themselves day by day against Ruth, Shore, Leonard, Mays and Foster.

And Boston is now in this position: If she can beat her four besiegers back with considerable loss, she will be more than

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